

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1-20, 22, 24, 26-29, 32 and 33 are allowed. The following is a statement of the examiner's reasons for allowance. Regarding claims 1, 2, 5 and 22, the prior art fails to disclose a transparent intermediate layer comprising at least one of a metal oxide other than a nickel oxide and a metal as a main component placed between the oxidative coloration layer and the solid electrolyte layer. The claimed invention is therefore considered to be in condition for allowance as being novel and non-obvious over prior art.

2. The prior art taken either singly or in combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations of the independent claims, in such a manner that a rejection under 35 USC 102 or 103 would be improper. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Other Information/Remarks

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-2327. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky L. Mack, can be reached at 571-272-2333. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jack Dinh/
Examiner, Art Unit 2873
05/22/08

/Ricky L. Mack/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2873